

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the amount of mercury affixed to a sorbent, the method comprising:

providing an amount of sorbent, at least a portion of the amount of sorbent comprising particulates having mercury compounds affixed to the particulates;

depositing the amount of sorbent on a floor of a fluidized bed conveyor, the floor comprising a metal media having openings; and

passing heated flowing air through the openings to move the amount of sorbent from a beginning to an exit area of the fluidized bed conveyor, wherein the flowing air is passed through the openings until the sorbent reaches a temperature of at least 700°F and mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the particulates,

wherein the fluidized bed conveyor is an air slide.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

measuring an in process temperature of the sorbent when the sorbent is exposed to the heated flowing air;

removing at least a portion of the sorbent being exposed to the heated flowing air when the measured in process temperature reaches at least 700°F;

thereafter providing a second amount of sorbent, at least a portion of the second amount of sorbent comprising particulates having mercury affixed to the particulates; and

thereafter maintaining the sorbent in the heated flowing air until the sorbent reaches a temperature of at least 700°F.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the openings are 10 microns or less.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the flowing air is passed through the openings at greater than 0 to about 10 cubic feet per minute.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sorbent is activated carbon.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein:
the amount of activated carbon is maintained in the heated flowing air until the activated carbon reaches a temperature in the range of 700°F to 1000°F.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
reusing the sorbent in a mercury reduction process after mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the particulates.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: preheating the amount of sorbent to a temperature of at least 300°F before exposing the amount of sorbent to the flowing air.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing the amount of mercury adsorbed to activated carbon, the method comprising:

providing an amount of activated carbon, at least a portion of the activated carbon having adsorbed mercury compounds;

depositing the amount of activated carbon on a floor of a fluidized bed conveyor, the floor comprising a metal media having openings; and

passing heated flowing air through the openings to move the amount of sorbent from a beginning to an exit area of the fluidized bed conveyor, wherein the flowing air is passed through the openings until the activated carbon reaches a temperature of at least 700°F,

wherein the fluidized bed conveyor is an air slide.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein: the openings are 10 microns or less.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the flowing air is passed through the openings at greater than 0 to about 10 cubic feet per minute.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein:

the amount of activated carbon is maintained in the heated flowing air until the activated carbon reaches a temperature in the range of 700°F to 1000°F.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

reusing the activated carbon in a mercury reduction process after mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the activated carbon.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

preheating the amount of activated carbon to a temperature of at least 300°F before exposing the amount of activated carbon to the flowing air.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the amount of mercury in an amount of particulate matter including fly ash and activated carbon, the method comprising:

providing an amount of particulate matter including fly ash and activated carbon, at least a portion of the fly ash or activated carbon having adsorbed mercury compounds;

depositing the amount of particulate matter on a floor of a fluidized bed conveyor, the floor comprising a metal media having openings; and

passing heated flowing air through the openings to move the amount of sorbent from a beginning to an exit area of the fluidized bed conveyor, wherein the flowing air is passed through the openings until the particulate matter reaches a temperature of at least 700°F and mercury compounds are liberated from at least some of the particulate matter,

wherein the fluidized bed conveyor is an air slide.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein:
the particulate matter is exposed to heated flowing air until the particulate matter reaches a temperature in the range of 700°F to 1000°F.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the floor is sloping.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein:
the floor is sloping.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein:
the floor is sloping.